



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on April 13, 2016 at the Cross State Office Building, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Martha Harris; Vice Chair Peter Geiger; John Bird; Nichi Farnham; Wilson Hess; Jana Lapoint; Heidi Sampson; Jane Sexton; Ande Smith; Gwendolyn Viles; and Noa Sreden.

Also present were: Angel Martinez Loreda, Higher Education Specialist; Scott Brown and Mary Becker, Secretary Associate, State Board of Education.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Martha Harris called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by student member, Gwendolyn Viles: The Vision of the State Board is to ensure Maine public school students graduate with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be responsible American citizens; self-directed and dedicated to making contributions to society by pursuing further education and employment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Heidi Sampson, seconded by Nichi Farnham, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the March 9, 2016 minutes as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Construction Committee (Peter Geiger):

The Construction Committee met on April 1, 2016 as scheduled.

- The Committee received a presentation from RSU #75 for the site approval of Mt. Ararat High School.
- A presentation was given by Lewiston Public Schools for concept approval for a new PreK-6 Elementary School.
- There was discussion regarding the Major Capital Improvement Program. The Committee will be talking about a new process for an upcoming list of school projects.

The next Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2016. The meeting will be held in room 500 of the Cross State Office Building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Certification and Higher Education (Nichi Farnham):

The Certification and Higher Education Committee did not meet on March 30, 2016, as scheduled.

The next Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2016. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

Career and Technical Education (Heidi Sampson):

The Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) met on April 1, 2016, as scheduled. CTE Committee Report:

- Acting Commissioner Beardsley attended the meeting and spoke about the Blue Ribbon Commission and the opening of standard one and looking at the Maine Learning Results. Jana Lapoint has been designated by Martha Harris, Chair of the State Board of Education, to serve on the Blue Ribbon Commission.
- Intersections Work has been completed in the following areas: Automotive, Carpentry, Health Occupation, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, Welding, Computer Installation, and Law Enforcement.
- The Committee met Peter Osborne, the new Standards and Assessment Specialist in the CTE Office at the Department of Education.
- The Committee discussed the Perkins Reauthorization.
- There is still no movement on Cosmetology. Six schools want to offer the program.
- There was discussion on LD 557: "An Act to Provide Reasonable Accommodations for School Attendance for Children Certified for the Medical Use of Marijuana". Working on getting some guidance.
- Heidi will send a link to the full Board for a webinar (April 14) regarding a 20 page Fordham Institute report about Career and Technical Education.
- The Committee will have an upcoming discussion on the Perkins split of funds.

The next CTE Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2016. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF FINDINGS REGARDING THE REQUEST OF LESLEY UNIVERSITY TO RENEW ITS CURRENT AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER ACADEMIC CREDIT PROGRAMS IN THE STATE OF MAINE

BACKGROUND: On March 9, 2016, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to receive the Lesley University Report of Findings regarding preapproval of authorization to offer credit bearing courses in the State of Maine. The report of findings is derived from evidence and interviews collected at the February 12, 2016 video conference with Lesley University faculty and administrative staff. Dr. MaryEllen Mahoney-O'Neil from the University of Maine facilitated the video conference and chaired the review team. Prior to the delivery of the report of findings to the State Board, Lesley University examined the document for errors of fact.

Lesley University was authorized by the State Board of Education (SBE) in 2011 to offer classes online and through face-to-face format at the Berwick Academy and has received three five-year-renewals since 2001. Incorporated under the laws of the State of Massachusetts, Lesley University is authorized to grant undergraduate and graduate degrees by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and the Massachusetts Department of Education. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges has continuously accredited Lesley University since 1952.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve Lesley University's renewal of authorization to offer credit bearing programs in the State of Maine for the period of spring 2016 to spring 2021.

MOVED by Nichi Farnham, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to approve Lesley University's renewal of authorization to offer credit bearing programs in the State of Maine for the period of spring 2016 to spring 2021.

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; LEWISTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS – GRADES PREK-6
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: Lewiston Superintendent of Schools, William Webster, Jr., requests that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval for a new PreK-6, 888 student Elementary School.

The original Martel Elementary School was constructed in 1933 on a 3 acre site. The building is overcrowded and has significant programmatic, building code, and health and safety issues. The project will also replace the Longley Elementary School constructed in the 1960s and has similar programmatic and safety issues. The Martel School rated #8 on the 2010-2011 School Facilities Rating Cycle and the Longley School rated #20.

The proposed new school will be built on the Franklin Pasture Athletic Field Complex located at the existing Lewiston High School complex. The site is within walking distance of both the existing elementary schools and the neighborhoods they serve.

The new building will be designed to meet the Department of Education school construction standards. All state and local agencies have had input, and where necessary, documented approvals are on file. The project received State Board of Education Site Approval on November 10, 2015.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Project description by Superintendent William Webster, Jr.: The new elementary school is scheduled to open in 2019 and will not come too soon to address Lewiston's continued growth in enrollment. The City has seen an average increase of 100 students per year over the last 10 years, and enrollment grew by 250 students last fall. Today there are no available rooms in Lewiston's public schools to add an additional elementary classroom.

The new elementary school will replace two old and overcrowded schools: Martel Elementary School and Longley Elementary School. Martel was built in 1933 with offices on the second floor, restricted playground spaces, little access for staff or students with disabilities, and a limit of two classrooms per grade level even with two portables. In recent years some grade levels have had as many as 29 students per class. The school has no separate cafeteria.

Longley was built in the 1960s as a K-2 school for 200 or so students and was connected to the City's Multi-purpose Building. The school now has 5 portable classrooms, and three years ago completely took over the Multi-Purpose Building. It now serves over 450 students, PreK-through sixth grade. Food is trucked in as the school does not have a full kitchen. Both Martel and Longley lag all the other Lewiston schools in classroom technology, parking and security measures.

Longley serves a predominantly minority population with over 50% English Language Learners. The combined schools will result in a socio-economic makeup that more closely mirrors the city population overall. The new school will also provide space presently lacking, such as art rooms, music rooms and appropriate physical education space, and, most importantly, will expand special education programming for autism, life functional life skills and behavior. This will allow Lewiston to service more students in-house as opposed to special purpose private schools. The new facility and student body make-up will have a very positive impact on student learning in Lewiston.

Project Information:

Project: New Lewiston Elementary School to replace Martel and Longley Schools
Superintendent: William Webster, Jr.

Principal: Stephen Whitfield, Martel Elementary School; Kristie Clark, Longley Elementary School

Architect: Harriman Architects & Engineers

School(s) to be closed: Martel Elementary School, Longley Elementary School

Project Budget Information:

Total Project Cost: \$53,020,604

Local Only (no State participation): \$3,271,360

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$49,749,244

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Acting Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to Lewiston Public Schools for a new PreK-6 Elementary School and also approve the Concept Budget as presented.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On April 1, 2016, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to Lewiston Public Schools for a new PreK-6 Elementary School in Lewiston, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project approve the concept budget as presented.

MOVED by Peter Geiger, seconded by Ande Smith, and unanimously voted by those present to grant Concept Approval to Lewiston Public Schools for a new PreK-6 Elementary School and also approve the Concept Budget as presented.

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; SITE APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; RSU #75-MT. ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: Superintendent of Schools, Bradley Smith, requests that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval for a high school construction project located in Topsham, Maine.

The school is proposed to be located on a 113 acre campus, home of the existing Mt. Ararat High School, Mt. Ararat Middle School, administrative offices and other district facilities. There is adequate buildable acreage to support an addition or new facility. The site is centrally located in the district and well established in the social context of the community. It benefits from good access and is well served by utility and transportation infrastructure. Site investigations and environmental analysis studies have been conducted and have not revealed any issues of significance. A completed Site Application is on file with the Department of Education and meets all the needed criteria of the State Board of Education's Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects. The architects and engineers have met with all the required state and local agencies and they have responded positively to the proposed project.

New vs. Renovations analysis of the existing Mt. Ararat High School has been completed with a recommendation of new construction. The advantages of new construction are: less disruption to students and staff, less time for construction, better long-term value and flexibility for future growth, and lowest estimated total project cost.

In a public meeting on January 21, 2016, constructing a new facility on this site was endorsed by a vote of 85 to 0.

Project Information:

Project: RSU #75 High School Construction Project

Superintendent: Bradley Smith

Architect: Portland Design Team – Lyndon Keck

Total number of acres: 113

Total Purchase Cost: \$0

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION: The Acting Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to RSU #75 for a high school construction project on RSU owned property according to the provisions of Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On April 1, 2016, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to RSU #75 for a high school construction project on RSU owned property according to the provisions of Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

MOVED by Peter Geiger, seconded by Ande Smith, and unanimously voted by those present to grant Site Approval to RSU #75 for a high school construction project on RSU owned property according to the provisions of Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF STATE OF MAINE YEAR TEN (10) REVISIONS AND REQUEST TO EXTEND THE SIX-YEAR PLAN FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION UNDER THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT OF 2006 (P.L. 109-270) AND “REQUEST FOR CONFORMING REVISIONS TO STATE PLAN SUBMISSIONS, INCLUDING BUDGETS” (OMB APPROVAL NUMBER 1830-0029)

As a condition for the receipt of Federal funds to support career and technical education, §122 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-270) requires a designated “eligible agency” in each State—in Maine’s case, the State Board of Education—to submit a State Plan for Career and Technical Education. The Eligible Agency must send in a revised budget, any revisions to the plan, any request to extend and the agreed upon performance indicators for that grant period each Grant year covered by the plan.

Following the Guidance for the Submission of Perkins IV State Plan Revisions, Budgets, and Performance Levels for Program Year Ten Grant Awards – OMB Approval Number: 1830-0029 sent February 5, 2016 and based on the FY16 grant award sent in February 2015, the Maine Department of Education Career and Technical Education Team has prepared the year ten (10) State plan

revisions covering the grant period beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017.

The year ten (10) revisions include:

- Wording changes to Perkins State Plan Section II. A. 2.
- A revised budget for the grant period covering July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017
- State proposed performance levels for the Consolidate Annual Report (CAR) indicators

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board approve the State of Maine Year X revised budget for the Year ten extension of the Six Year Plan for Career and Technical Education Under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-270) for the grant year July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.

MOVED by Heidi Sampson, seconded by Jane Sexton, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the State of Maine Year X revised budget for the Year ten extension of the Six Year Plan for Career and Technical Education Under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-270) for the grant year July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.

Note: Wilson Hess joined the meeting at 1:38 PM

REQUEST APPROVAL OF A REVISED STATE OF MAINE YEAR NINE (9) REVISIONS AND REQUEST TO EXTEND THE SIX-YEAR PLAN FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION UNDER THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT OF 2006 (P.L. 109-270) AND “REQUEST FOR CONFORMING REVISIONS TO STATE PLAN SUBMISSIONS, INCLUDING BUDGETS” (OMB APPROVAL NUMBER 1830-0029)

As a condition for the receipt of Federal funds to support career and technical education, §122 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-270) requires a designated “eligible agency” in each State—in Maine’s case, the State Board of Education—to submit a State Plan for Career and Technical Education. The Eligible Agency must send in a revised budget, any revisions to the plan, any request to extend and the agreed upon performance indicators for that grant period each Grant year covered by the plan.

Following the Guidance for the Submission of Revised Federal Fiscal Year 2015 State Allocations under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) issued by the U.S. Office of Vocational and Adult Education on March 29, 2016 the Maine Department of Education Career and Technical Education Team has prepared the year nine (9) State plan revisions covering the grant period beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

This revision is the result of the restoration of funds previously reduced by the Congressional *Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015*, Pub. L. No. 113-164, that provided funding for a number of Federal programs through December 11, 2014. The CR included an across-the-board reduction that applied to the advance portion of fiscal year (FY) 2015 funds that became available October 1, 2015.

This year nine (9) revision includes:

- A revised budget for the grant period covering July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board approve this additional revision of the State of Maine Year IX budget for the Year nine extension of the Six Year Plan for Career and Technical Education Under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-270) for the grant year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016.

MOVED by Heidi Sampson, seconded by Jane Sexton, and unanimously voted by those present to approve this additional revision of the State of Maine Year IX budget for the Year nine extension of the Six Year Plan for Career and Technical Education Under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-270) for the grant year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016.

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEMBERS

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Peter Geiger, and unanimously voted by those present to accept Ande Smith's resignation from the Charter School Commission and to approve John Bird, State Board of Education Member, to serve on the Charter School Commission.

STUDENT TRANSFER APPEALS – PROPOSED LANGUAGE

MOTION by Peter Geiger, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the amendments to the State Board Procedure for Handling Transfer Appeals.

APPOINTMENT OF A NOMINATION AND ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Chair Martha Harris appointed Peter Geiger as Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee with Nichi Farnham and Jane Sexton as members of the Committee to bring back a nomination report for the May 11, 2016 meeting.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Martha Harris

- On March 17 and 18, she and Peter attended the New England Secondary School Consortium Conference (NESSC) in Norwood, Massachusetts.

This is a consortium of five New England States and over 900 people were in attendance. Martha will send Board Members a written report on the conference.

- She has been re-appointed by Governor LePage to serve on the State Board of Education for another 5 year term. She has been confirmed unanimously by the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee and the State Senate.
- She has asked Jana Lapoint to serve on the Blue Ribbon Commission as the designee for the State Board of Education. Jana has accepted.
- On April 1, she attended the Construction Committee Meeting, Career and Technical Education Committee Meeting, and the Agenda Review Meeting. She was very pleased to have both John Bird and Wilson Hess attend the Committee meetings.
- Acting Commissioner Beardsley has reorganized the department and he shared this with the Board during the Workshop Session.
- On April 3 to 5, she and Jana Lapoint attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. They met with Senator Collins and her staff, and met with the staff of Senator King, Representative Pingree and Representative Poliquin. They urged the Reauthorization of Perkins, and were assured by everyone that it is noncontroversial and it ought to be reassured. They also requested strongly that they look at the federal funding of it and see if they could give Maine more money. Martha will send Board Members a written report on the conference.
- She has received many emails regarding the Skowhegan mascot. She responded once and will not be responding to others. As a Board, Martha suggested that they not get involved as the Board does not have jurisdiction regarding the local matter.
- There is a conference coming up on May 4 in Boston that involves Higher Education. Members of the Certification Committee are not available to attend. Martha will send the invitation to the full Board so if a member is interested in attending.
- The Commissioner's Conference is coming up in June and all SBE Members should have received an invitation.
- On April 26, there will be a Beyond Measure Video Screening at Thomas College being offered by Curriculum Coordinators.
- On May 18 and 19, an assessment conference will be held in Portland, ME. Martha will forward information on all upcoming events should any members be interested in attending.

Vice Chair, Peter Geiger

- On March 17 and 18, he attended the 7th Annual New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) Conference with Chair Harris in Norwood, Mass. Focus was on Proficiency Based Learning. He and Martha attended different sessions. Peter's included PBE for Special Education Students, Harnessing the Power of Student Voice in Leading School Improvement; the Role of Principals in Implementation of Personal Learning among others. It is always great to interact with those in other states doing important work.

- On April 1, he attended the Construction Committee Meeting and the Agenda Review Meeting with Acting Commissioner Beardsley.
- On April 6, the Human Capital Management Systems Statewide Meeting was held in Augusta. The group is made up of subcommittees developing best practices so schools can better attract, grow and retain high-performance educators. Information about this group can be found at maine.gov/doe/excellence/index.html
- The State Board of Education Annual Retreat will be held on Monday, August 8 and Tuesday, August 9 at the Peter McKernan Center on the campus of Southern Maine Community College (SMCC). One session will be with science educators and he is attempting to set up a discussion with former student members of the SBE. Peter welcomes additional topics and would like Board members to call him or email suggestions to him. The August business meeting will be at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, August 9.
- The Maine Teacher of the Year Program is comprised of nominations for County Teachers of the Year who eventually vie for our 2017 Maine Teacher of the Year. There are 305 nominations, 101 teachers have opted in for consideration and to date 97 applications have been received. Judging for each county takes place later in the month (April) and a Hall of Flags ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 13.

Note: Nichi Farnham left the meeting at 2:42 PM.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Gwendolyn Viles:

- She volunteered at her local food cupboard a couple weeks ago.
- She is involved in her Latin Club and their winter comedy night has been canceled.
- She presented her senior project, so now she just needs to pass her English class and she will be ready for graduation.
- Her school district voted to accept the building of a new school. Many people were nervous that the community would not vote for the new school as there are budget issues currently going on. Kids at the school stepped up and made a phone bank where kids would go to an off-site place to call individuals in the community and talk to them about the new school. Kids that were 18, registered and voted. The vote passed.

Noa Sreden:

- She is working with a non-profit group that sends her technology items and they sent her what is called Google Cardboard. It puts virtual reality on an iPhone.
- On April 1, she called into the Career and Technical Education Committee Meeting.
- Over the month of March, her school has been hosting a March Madness Food Drive which has been highly successful.

- On March 26, she attended a “Spring into Service” meeting at Thornton Academy for interact clubs around Maine and New Hampshire. It was like a Think Tank Presentation.
- On March 27, she turned 17.
- On March 28, she attended her local school board meeting.
- On April 10, she participated in the Maine National Lacrosse Team try outs. She just found out that she made the team and this summer she will be going with the Maine Team to the National Tournament.
- They had a School Board Budget Public Forum on April 11.
- She took her SAT’s on April 12.

John Bird:

- He attended the Construction Committee Meeting and the Career and Technical Education Committee Meeting on April 1.
- He is serving his second three year term on the Charter School Commission.

Heidi Sampson:

- She attended the Career and Technical Education Committee Meeting on April 1. New State Board members, John Bird and Wilson Hess attended the meeting and both will serve on the CTE Committee.
- On April 6, she met with Suzan Beaudoin at the Department of Education for a private tutoring session on Essential Programs and Services (EPS).
- Her Government class is doing great and on Tuesday they met with their local selectmen. This class is going to present to the Governor and they are also debating Acting Commissioner Beardsley.

Jane Sexton:

- She attended the Project Learning Tree last Friday and Saturday. Forestry products have teachers learn about forestry science and practice.
- One of the professor’s at the University of Maine has a Virtual Environment and Multi Mobile Interaction Laboratory. This is for students to work in and make money. This is technology, science and hands-on for kids.

Ande Smith:

- He attended his last Charter Commission Meeting.
- He attended a Town Hall Meeting in Buxton and Heidi brought her Government class. The students had great questions.
- He saw Kristin Bishop over the weekend and she is doing well and sends her regards.
- He saw Nick Lathan’s Young Leaders Group when they were presenting in Waldoboro last weekend. There was a remarkable amount of people in the audience.

Wilson Hess:

- He attended both the Construction Committee Meeting and the Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) Meeting on April 1, 2016.

- Martha has appointed him to serve on both the Certification and Higher Education Committee and the Career and Technical Education Committee.
- He will be attending the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) New Member Institute in July.
- He will not be in attendance at any SBE meetings in the month of May.

Jana Lapoint:

- She attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative Conference on April 3, 4, and 5 in Washington, DC, with Martha Harris. It was well worth attending and she is extremely glad that she participated.

Note: Nichi Farnham left the meeting at 2:42 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary at the end of this meeting.
- Budget (Peter Geiger) – we have been down 3 people so the dollars have not been used.
- The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) has announced their call for nominations for its 2016 Annual Awards – A Policy Leader of the Year Award; A Friend of Education Award and up to three Distinguished Service Awards. The deadline for nominations is June 8, 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dick Durost, Executive Director of the Maine Principal's Association (MPA) commented on the emails and letters that his organization has received in regards to the Skowhegan mascot.

The MPA will be holding their spring conference on April 28 and 29 at the Samoset in Rockport. The spring conference – “Mental Health vs. Mental Illness in Maine” - How to Support Our Student and Ourselves features presenters from the National Alliance on Mental Issues and Spurwink.

He commented on how much he appreciates all the great work that the SBE does and he enjoys attending SBE meetings whenever his schedule allows. Dick finds it to be a day well spent.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Ande Smith, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the April 13, 2016 State Board of Education meeting at 3:06 PM.